

B1 U.S. 6,056,300, which is a continuation of application of serial no. 08/780,485, filed January 8, 1997, entitled, "Unitary Strap For Use in A Soft Boot Snowboard Binding", now pending.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 28 as shown.

B2 Conventional soft boot bindings come in either a two or three strap arrangement comprising an ankle strap, a toe strap and, in the three strap arrangement, a shin strap. The ankle strap may include an oblong strap member which has a first end with a number of holes to adjustably attach the strap to the sidewall of the baseplate by a nut and bolt combination which is received through the appropriate hole adjacent the instep of the boot. The second end of the ankle strap typically includes a ratchet buckle, such as the SLAP RATCHET™ buckle available from Burton Snowboards of Burlington VT, which matingly engages a toothed or serrated strap mounted to the sidewall of the baseplate adjacent the outer side of the boot. The Slap Ratchet buckle and serrated strap allow for incremental adjustment once the ankle strap is secured around the boot. Likewise, the toe strap also typically includes an oblong strap member which has a first end with a number of holes to adjustably attach the strap to the sidewall of the baseplate by a nut and bolt combination which is received through the appropriate hole adjacent the "big" toe of the rider. The second end of the toe strap also typically includes a clip, such as a LEVERAGE TOE CLIP™ available from Burton Snowboards, which mates with a serrated strap mounted to the sidewall of the baseplate adjacent the "little" or "pinkie" toe of the foot for incremental adjustment of the toe strap. The shin strap, when utilized, is typically mounted at a first end to the high-back portion of the binding by a fastener, such as a nut and bolt combination, and includes a ratchet buckle which matingly engages a toothed or serrated strap mounted to the sidewall high-back, adjacent the outer shin. Such soft boot bindings are available from Burton Snowboards, of Burlington, VT, and include for example, the X2, Custom Freestyle, Freestyle, Freestyle XS, System, Lo-Back and Contact models.

Please rewrite the paragraph at beginning at page 6, line 21 as shown.

B3 As shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4A, mounting strap 28 includes a plurality of holes 32 disposed substantially along the length of the strap, to allow for adjustment of the ankle section over the boot 11 of the user. As is conventional, the baseplate 13 includes a number of holes 35 so that the ankle section 18 may be properly located over the ankle area for a variety of riders. A

first end of the mounting strap 28 is preferably secured to the inside of baseplate 13 along the back portion 29 by fastener 31. In the present embodiment, fastener 31 comprises a nut and bolt, although other fastening devices will be known to one of skill in the art. A second end of the mounting strap 28 is preferably inserted through a slit 33 cut into the inside portion of ankle section 18 and into a pocket 34 formed internally within binding member 16. In use, after the first end of the mounting strap 28 is fastened to the back portion 29 of the baseplate, the rider inserts the second end through slit 33 and into pocket 34. The rider may then adjust the second end of the strap to suit his or her own preferences by moving a length of mounting strap 28 into the pocket to attain the desired fit. The rider can then secure the second end of mounting strap 28 inside the pocket 34 by using a fastener, such as screw 36, which engages one of the plurality of holes 32 to hold the mounting strap 28 in place. The adjustable mounting strap 28 allows a rider to make a first adjustment of the ankle section 18 of the binding strap depending upon the size of the rider's boot and/or the desired tension on the ankle portion of the rider's foot. In the present embodiment, mounting strap 28 is made of plastic material, although any material which can securely attach the binding to the baseplate, while providing for adjustable positions, such as by holes, may be utilized. The use of pocket 34 in the present embodiment decreases the thickness associated with multiple layers of material, as the mounting strap 18 is received within binding member 16. The pocket 34 provides extra comfort because the thickness of the strap is not increased and a cushioning layer exists between the strap 28 and the boot of the rider.

Please rewrite the paragraph at beginning at page 7, line 25 as shown.

With continued reference to Figs. 1 and 4A, ankle section 18 is releasably secured over boot 11 by engagement member 30, which can be a ratcheting buckle and strap. In the present embodiment, engagement member 30 includes a buckle 38, such as the SLAP RATCHET™ buckle, available from Burton Snowboards of Burlington, VT, mounted to the outer side 27 of ankle section 18 and a serrated strap 40, mounted to the outer sidewall 42 of baseplate 13, by a fastener, for example a nut and bolt. Outer side 27 of ankle section 18 is preferably rounded so as to provide a comfortable fit by avoiding sharp edges which may tend to cut into the ankle or foot of the rider. Serrated strap 40 matingly engages slap ratchet 38 for incremental adjustment of binding strap 12 about the ankle section 18, as is known in the art. Engagement of strap 40